

We have spoken with many Senators about their amendments. As Senator WARNER just indicated, we hope to be able to clear perhaps 50 or 60 amendments, 15 or 20 of which are already cleared. That is our goal, to get our cleared amendments passed and to set up, in a unanimous consent proposal for Monday, the way in which we would vote on various amendments, with time agreements and whether there are 50 votes or 60 votes, and so forth, on Tuesday. That is our goal.

I would hope, for the reasons the majority leader just gave, that because this bill is so critically important to the men and women in the Army and to the security of this Nation—not just the Army but the men and women of our Armed Forces and to the security of this Nation—that we will get this bill passed. The only way we can get it passed is if sometime early next week we are able to pass it; otherwise, we cannot get the work done in conference and back here to the Senate and to the White House.

So I thank my good friend from Virginia. I think the comments of the majority leader are comments which should be shared by every single Member of this body relative to the capability and the leadership and the patriotism of Senator WARNER. It is always a pleasure to work with him. This may be one of our greatest challenges, but we have a long history of being able to work together on a bipartisan basis to address these kinds of challenges. He has led this committee. We have had many great members of the committee.

Staff is working very hard, and I am optimistic going into the weekend that we will be able to get that unanimous consent agreement worked out on Monday.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague.

We are working on a draft UC for Monday, and I wish to point out that those amendments which have been brought to our attention requiring votes, we are going to try to achieve that prior to the invoking of cloture; am I not correct?

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator is correct.

Mr. WARNER. And we are trying to protect, on both sides, an equal number of Senators who have come to us and sought that protection.

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator is correct.

Mr. WARNER. I thank Senators DEMINT and COBURN for working with us last night on an important issue not only to the underlying question of how this body is going to handle certain desires of individual Senators to get funds to their States, but it is the preservation of the jurisdiction of the authorizing committee, of our authorizing committee as well as other authorizing committees in the Senate. So that is fundamental to the resolution of that problem, and I think we have made progress there.

Mr. LEVIN. We have. There is no more fundamental question to this institution than the role of our commit-

tees and this institution vis-a-vis the executive branch and whether we are going to have a robust power of the purse or whether that is going to be diminished in any way. I think we are making great progress in showing to our colleagues the implications of some of the proposals, and we are going to continue to make progress in that regard.

Mr. WARNER. Now, Mr. President, I would suggest the Senator should now move to morning business and get off this bill. We are cleared on this side.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we move to morning business and that the first person recognized be Senator SANDERS, who is always very patient.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I would just concur, if I might, with the fine words of Senator REID. I have not known Senator WARNER all that long, but clearly he is what a Senator should be. He is thoughtful, intelligent, and respectful of other points of view. While he and I may not agree on every issue, I have appreciated working with him, and I applaud him for his service to this country.

Mr. WARNER. I thank my colleague for his remarks.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I did want to say a word or two on the Defense authorization bill and to indicate that my staff has been working with the staff of Senators LEVIN and WARNER. I hope we can work out an agreement on an important amendment I have authored along with Senators FEINGOLD and WHITEHOUSE.

DEFENSE SPENDING

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, this country has a \$9.7 trillion national debt. In addition, we obviously have enormous unmet infrastructure needs and social needs. Every American who drives on the road or goes over a bridge understands that we need to spend billions of dollars rebuilding our infrastructure. Forty-six million Americans have no health insurance. We have the highest rate of childhood poverty in the industrialized world. In other words, we as a nation have enormous needs, and it is incumbent upon the Congress to do everything we can to take a hard look at fraud, waste, and abuse in every agency of the U.S. Government, including the Defense Department.

I know many of my colleagues come down here and take a hard look at this issue. They take a hard look at that issue, but for some reason or another, looking at the Defense Department seems to be off their radar screen, and I think that is wrong. I think that is especially wrong given the fact that the budget we are looking at right now

for the Defense Department is over \$500 billion, excluding the money we spent in Iraq and Afghanistan, which is more than half of the discretionary budget of our country. So it seems to me that with regard to any of the agencies out there, we should be very active in taking a hard look at the waste, fraud, and abuse that takes place within the Defense authorization bill.

The amendment I am offering with Senators FEINGOLD and WHITEHOUSE is pretty simple and straightforward. Today, more than half of the spare parts in the Air Force warehouses—over \$18 billion—are not needed. That is \$18 billion in spare parts which are not needed. In fact, if you can believe it, the Air Force has on order \$235 million in inventory already identified as ready for disposal. They are spending \$235 million to bring inventory in which is going to go out because they do not need it. That may make sense to somebody, but it certainly does not make sense to me.

The truth is that this type of wasteful practice has gone on year after year, resulting in an enormous waste of taxpayer money, and it must be ended. Our amendment does three things: No. 1, it requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a comprehensive plan for improving the inventory system. No. 2, it requires the certification to Congress that the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Defense Logistics Agency have reduced their secondary inventory. No. 3, it fences off \$100 million in inventory purchases until the Secretary of Defense makes required certifications.

Mr. President, I would remind the Members of the Senate of one of the most significant speeches ever given by a President of the United States, and that President was Dwight David Eisenhower, who, as all Americans should know, was a five-star general and the military commander of Europe during World War II. He was, in fact, one of the great heroes in the defeat of nazism. Eisenhower, who became President in 1952—though it is not widely known—was extremely vocal in taking on not only Democrats—he was a Republican—but Republicans as well in saying that every nickel we spent on excess and wasteful military spending—something which he knew something about as a former five-star general—was simply taking money away from the needs of the American people.

A few days before he left office in 1961, President Eisenhower gave one of the most prophetic speeches ever made from the White House, and here is what Eisenhower said:

In the councils of Government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

This is what Eisenhower said before he left office in 1961. He was talking then about the military industrial